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Bulletin de l'Académie de Bruxelles. Nos. 9—12.

Annuaire de l'Académie de Bruxelles. Cinquieme année.
Presented by the Academy.

Annuaire de l'Observation de Bruxelles, pour 1839. Par
M. Quetelet.

Resume des Observations Meteorologiques, 1838. Par
M. Quetelet. Presented by the Author.

Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Seances de l'Académie des Sciences. Par MM. les Secretaires Perpetuels.
Nos. 12—17. Premier Semestrie, 1839. Presented by the
Academy.

Eclaircissements sur la destination de trois Zodiaques Antiques. Par M. de Briere. Presented by the Author.

The Turkish Empire illustrated. Parts 1—12. Presented by Dr. Walsh.

Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Vol.
III. Part I. Presented by the Institution.

May 27, 1839.

SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, A. M., President, in the Chair.

The thanks of the Academy were voted to Sir William Betham for his services as Secretary of Foreign Correspondence; he having resigned that office, together with his place in the Council.

Dr. Aquilla Smith was elected to the vacant place in the Council; and Professor Mac Cullagh was appointed Secretary of Foreign Correspondence.

Dr. Wilde made a second communication on the subject of the Peruvian Mummy. It appeared that, in accordance with the wish of the subscribers, a further examination of

the mummy had taken place ; and the different articles that had been removed from it and cleaned, were exhibited, as well as the mummy itself, to the meeting. The pottery-ware vessels, which were placed underneath the chin, and which were supposed to have been used for making the infusion of the yerba de Paraguay, or mattee tea, at present a custom in that country, are of great beauty in colour, form, and ornament. One of them had the mark of fire on its outer side ; the other, some crystals of salt round its aperture. Two bags of plain woollen cloth, and sewn up the sides, were found to contain a quantity of finely ground meal of a brown colour, still possessing some flavour, and having a saltish taste ; and in one of the bags were also discovered two heads of small Indian corn, in great preservation. Two other bags of great beauty of texture, and brilliancy of colour, woven in stripes of blue and red, contained a quantity of dried leaves supposed to be the cocco, and a small quantity of clay-like burned substance. Both these bags are of exquisite workmanship, and bespeak a great perfection of the arts among this people ; one was adorned with a handsome tassel work not unlike a lady's reticule : both were tied at top with a slip knot. All those substances were no doubt placed to afford a supply of food for the journey of the deceased to the land of spirits. The piece of cloth which surrounded all those, and which was fastened round the neck, was also exhibited, and appeared to be the remains of some old article of dress belonging to the deceased, from its similarity to the kilt and apron which surrounded the lower part of the body. These latter consisted of a broad piece of woollen cloth of different colours, tied round the loins ; and the apron, which was of different colours, was fastened on the front of the body by strings which went over the shoulders. During the examination, a small curious beetle was discovered by Mr. Ball, on which Mr. Curtis, of London, writes, " undoubtedly it is a true *Ptinus* of Linnæus, although it seems

to be related to *mezium sulcatum*, figured in the 232nd plate of my British Insects." Mr. Curtis states, that *Ptini* breed in such situations; and the insect being a perfectly new species, for which he proposes the name of *ptinus mortuorum*, he thinks it worthy of being described, and offers his services for that purpose. The mouth of the mummy was next examined: the lower lip appears to have been split, probably after the manner of the natives of Nookta Sound, spoken of by Captain Cook. The teeth are now exposed to view; those of the lower and upper jaw are separated by some substance placed between. The hair, which has been cleaned and placed in its proper position, exhibits a beautiful mode of head adornment; two large plaits formed of a number of smaller ones, and tied at the end, hang down by the side of the face towards either shoulder: it is long, black, and slightly sprinkled with grey in front. The hair at back is likewise plaited, having seven plaits on one side, and eight on the other. The whole is collected in a tie behind, one lock forming the centre. In the bend of the arm was found the weight or plummet of a fishing line, (probably that which was twisted round the fingers of the left hand,) formed of some metallic substance as yet undecided on. In the British Museum there is a Peruvian mummy, an enlarged drawing of which Dr. Wilde exhibited from the work of Dr. Pettigrew; in this the hands are extended along the sides of the face, but the rest of the body is in the position of the one before the meeting, than which it is much less perfect, and the head is completely devoid of hair.

Dr. Wilde then read several extracts bearing upon the subject of Peruvian mummies, and mentioned the name of Mr. J. R. Pentland, who, in a communication made to Tiedemann, and translated by Professor Graves, in the Dublin Journal for July, 1834, gives an account of the ancient graves called *Huxcas*, in the Valley of Titicaca; these sepulchres have the form of high round towers, and in some places are con-

structed of enormous masses of masonry, the stones arranged in a manner similar to the Cyclopean architecture of Greece and Italy. In all the sepulchres which have been yet discovered, there are remains of food, cooking utensils, and different articles emblematical of their calling, which was generally that of fishermen. There is no artificial process of embalming used, nor were any of the cavities of the body opened, so that all the interior of this mummy is in a perfect state. The nature of the earth, and the peculiar dryness of both it and the atmosphere, are such as to prevent the putrefactive process; and animals thrown loosely in the earth are likewise preserved.

The question of the race of mankind to which this mummy belonged is one of great interest. From the pyramidal form of the head, and other circumstances, Dr. Wilde conceived it should be classed among the great Turanian nations, characterized by great breadth of cheek bones, lozenge-shaped faces, formed by the bases of two triangles meeting on the cheek-bones, long straight hair, thin scanty beard, olive complexion, confluent features, depth of orbits, eyes wide apart, and more or less retreating foreheads; peculiarities, several of which he noticed as exhibited in the head of the mummy, which he did not think had been altered by artificial pressure, like the head of the modern Peruvian. Humboldt, Tiedemann, Dr. Pritchard, and Mr. Pentland, agree in giving this race an Asiatic origin; the last gentleman believing that the heads were not altered by pressure, and that the skulls of those ancient Peruvians belonged to a race of mankind now extinct.